

**University of South Dakota – Sanford School of Medicine
2018 JCA Budget Hearing**

How is SSOM responding to/adapting to changing high demand credentials/jobs?

- SSOM has expanded the medical school class size from 52 students per class in 2012 to 69 students per class in 2017. The school recruits students exclusively from South Dakota and those with very strong South Dakota roots.
- To advance in the medical school, students must take 3 national boards during medical school and one just after graduating. Pass rates for first-time takers is 95% to 100%, and all are above national averages.
- Physicians are also needed in rural areas. Through the work of the Governor's Primary Care Task Force, the Frontier and Rural Medicine program was established to allow a group of students to train for nine months in a small town in South Dakota. USD SSOM is at the top of the country for the proportion of graduates who ultimately practice in rural areas.
- The school has numerous 'pipeline' programs to introduce SD youth to healthcare careers. For example, SSOM founded and sponsors the South Dakota Health Occupation Student Organization (HOSA). Currently over 800 South Dakota high school students are enrolled in the program which provides education about health professions. An annual conference in South Dakota draws over 500 South Dakota high school students.
- In 2017, USD SSOM received the national Spencer Foreman Award for community service in recognition of programs like those cited above. This is considered the highest award a medical school can receive because it recognizes that the school is fulfilling its mission to its community. Many thanks to all the South Dakotans who made this possible: this is truly an award for the entire state.

What are the biggest challenges facing SSOM in the coming years?

- In the immediate term and beyond, one challenge is the number of busy physicians willing and able to teach medical students in their practices. South Dakotan physicians are amazingly generous with their time, but the school saturates their capacity. We are working diligently to enlist newly arriving physicians as teachers.
- After medical school, all graduates are required to do additional training called a 'residency'. South Dakota has one of the lowest number of residency slots available per student, causing our graduates to have to leave the state to do this training. Although South Dakota retains more graduates to practice in-state than surrounding states, we still feel we can do better. Thus we continue to advocate to expand residencies in South Dakota. We are pleased that there is a new rural residency site in Family Medicine opening in Pierre and run through the Center for Family Medicine. This effort was championed by the Governor's Primary Care Taskforce.